

Minutes of the January 17, 2016 meeting

President Ann Murphy called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM

Board members present: JoAnn Beiermeister, Jackie Byrnes, Sue Ann Cousar, Fran Deture, John Mejia, Ann Murphy, Duncan Rosen Absent: Helen Justice

Attendees present: Hanne & Howard Kulin, Michael Filipczak & L.A Brickner, Janet & Homer Cooksey, Joanna Drummond, Linda Deture, Steve and Marion Hall, A.J & Erin LaVallie, Karen Sirabian, Deanie & Steve Sward, Gene Murphy, Kay & Jake Stieger, Bill Fry, Bill Byrnes, and Judith Smith

New Board members John Mejia and Duncan Rosen were introduced. New Board officers are Ann Murphy, president, John Mejia, vice president, Fran Deture, treasurer, Sue Ann Cousar, communications secretary, and Jackie Byrnes, recording secretary.

Sue Ann Cousar read the minutes of the April meeting into the record. Minutes were approved by the Board.

Treasurer's report: There is \$15,474.14 in the checking account and \$73,209.06 in the Island Access Acquisition Fund ("Fund"). The Fund is owed \$8739.40 for the 2015 contribution.

Gene Murphy questioned the wisdom of continuing to maintain the Fund and wants the membership to consider whether it is still necessary in light of the fact that all Islanders have access and money could be used for other Island projects such as tree trimming and road maintenance. Fran responded that the membership voted to approve the Fund so that Islanders could have always have ingress and egress and not be at the mercy of private enterprise. The contributions to the Fund are to continue through 2017. Karen Sirabian said that it is time to examine how feasible the Fund is in terms of cost, liability insurance, etc. A lengthy discussion followed with members expressing concerns such as whether day trippers would be allowed, the cost of purchasing the property, the ability to be able to move quickly when a property becomes available, and the fact that some members are concerned with such a large amount of money sitting in the Fund when it could be used for other purposes. Gene Murphy feels that there will not be enough money at the end to purchase a property that would be appropriate for our needs. Linda Deture pointed out that while NCIC and Safety Harbor Club members will have access, Islanders without club membership may not. Another vote may be taken at a later time.

Fire Chief's report: Chief Pepper has stepped down as Chief and Bob Kinniry is Acting Chief. Deputy Chief Tim Higgins has retired. The Fire Department will celebrate 25 years in existence and an event will be planned to commemorate that. Chief Kinniry thanked JoAnn Beiermeister for her request for donations to the Department in Don's name, and \$4000 was collected. He also thanked JoAnn for her donation of a boat, which will be used as the crew boat. Beverly Horseley also made a generous donation in Sam's name. Chief Kinniry thanked everyone for their support for the Department and the event to be planned will also include a memorial service for the friends we have recently lost.

Chief Kinniry says his new staff is working out very well and he is proud of all of them. Gene Murphy said that there will be a special meeting at the Fire House on January 30 to discuss finances. The Fun Run netted \$8818, mostly from visitors to the Island. There have been 6 calls so far this year and 159 total in 2015.

Bill Byrnes thanked everyone who worked on the new street signs and indicated that the next project will be to make and erect signs for the Safety Harbor Club streets. JoAnn Beiermeister and Jackie Byrnes will be spearheading the project. As to the house numbers project, there were 111 unmarked

houses when the project was started, and at last count, there were only 8 to 10 unmarked. Those houses will receive letters from the Fire Department, then will be reported to Code Enforcement if they remain unnumbered. Bill will again be in charge of Island Cleanup, which will be held on February 14, 9:00 at the Fire House. As to the Road Company, Bryan Brillhart indicated at the Fire Commissioners' meeting on Saturday that their plan is to refurbish and resurface the road from the Fire Department to the airstrip. A new Island resident, Rob Dullard, has brought out equipment and experts to operate it to help with the roads.

A.J. LaVallie reported that the Brazilian Pepper is being cleared from the State land and that the State is donating Garlon so that property owners can begin clearing their properties. All pepper must be gone by January 1, 2021. Duncan Rosen indicated that he would be bringing out a chipper and that his staff would be cutting back foliage and chipping it.

The UCCA fundraiser will not be held on St. Patrick's Day but later in March. It will be a departure from prior fundraisers, heavy hors d'oeuvres with two drinks, beer or wine, included, plus a cash bar. There will still be live and silent auctions, location and ticket price still to be determined. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Fran Deture or Duncan Rosen, co-chairs.

Marion Hall raised a concern about drones and was told to contact Hart Kelley who is a member of Salty Approach, the airstrip association. Non-commercial drones are not allowed on the Island.

There was a discussion regarding private property owners blocking easements that are open to all Islanders, especially on Escondido and Night Hawk. An attempt will be made to try to resolve these issues amicably but the Board is prepared to take further steps if necessary.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15.